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1. (Amended) A communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting transmission information without using the communication network;

facsimile communication means for transmitting the transmission information inputted by said input means to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications;

encryption means for encryption the transmission information inputted by said input means;

electronic-mail communication means for transmitting the transmission information inputted by said input means or encrypted by said encryption means to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications;

communication designating means for causing transmission of the transmission information by selecting either said facsimile communication means or said electronic-mail communication means; and

security designating means for designating whether the transmission information is confidential information,

wherein, if the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means, said facsimile communication means transmits the transmission information to the destination apparatus by facsimile transmission through the communication network, when said facsimile communication means

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has been designated by said communication designating means, and said electronic-mail communication means sends the encrypted transmission information to the destination apparatus by electronic mail through the communication network, when said electronic-mail communication means has been designated by said communication designating means.

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4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, if the destination apparatus possesses a private security function, said facsimile communication means transmits the transmission information by confidential communication utilizing the private security function, when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means.

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5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means, said facsimile communication means checks to determine whether the destination apparatus possesses a private security function by inquiring as to whether the destination apparatus possesses the private security function, when a communication path to the destination apparatus is formed.

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8. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said security designating means makes a determination that the transmission information is confidential information when transmission by confidential communication is designated.

9. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means comprises a document reader and the transmission information is inputted by reading a document using the document reader.

10. (Amended) A communication method in a communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said method selectively executing facsimile communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications and electronic-mail communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications, and said method comprising the following steps, in a case where the transmission information is transmitted to a destination apparatus as confidential information:

inputting the transmission information without using the communication network;

transmitting the transmission information inputted in said inputting step to the destination apparatus as is by facsimile transmission through the communication network, when communication is performed in accordance with facsimile communication; and

encrypting the transmission information inputted in said inputting step and then sending it to the destination apparatus by electronic mail through the communication network, when communication is performed in accordance with electronic-mail communication.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein, if the destination

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apparatus possesses a private security function in a case where facsimile communication is performed, the transmission information is transmitted to a mailbox that utilizes the private security function, when the transmission information is transmitted as confidential information.

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17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication network includes at least one of a telephone network and a LAN.

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18. (New) A communication apparatus connected to a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit adapted to input transmission information without using the communication network;

a facsimile communication unit adapted to transmit the transmission information inputted by said input unit to a destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications;

an encryption unit adapted to encrypt the transmission information inputted by said input unit;

an electronic-mail communication unit adapted to transmit the transmission information inputted by said input unit or encrypted by said encryption unit to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications;

a communication designating unit adapted to cause transmission of the transmission information by selecting either said facsimile communication unit or said

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electronic-mail communication unit; and

a security designating unit adapted to designate whether the transmission information is confidential information,

wherein, if the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating unit, said facsimile communication unit transmits the transmission information to the destination apparatus by facsimile transmission through the communication network, when said facsimile communication unit has been designated by said communication designating unit, and said electronic-mail communication unit sends the encrypted transmission information to the destination apparatus by electronic mail through the communication network, when said electronic-mail communication unit has been designated by said communication designating unit.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 9, 2002. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, and 18 are in independent form. New Claims 17 and 18 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10 and 13 have been amended as to matters of form and/or to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,608,786 (Gordon). Applicant submits that independent Claims